

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 15 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification due to an informality; rejected claims 1 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite; rejected claims 13 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for improperly reciting a process; rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,785,076 to You (hereinafter referred to as “the You ‘076 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,033,378 to Pauliukonis (hereinafter referred to as “the Pauliukonis ‘378 patent”); and rejected claims 3 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the You ‘076 patent in view of the Pauliukonis ‘378 patent in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,168,015 to Robinette (hereinafter referred to as “the Robinette ‘015 patent”).

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1 – 15 have been amended to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§101 and 112; and Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s prior art rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification indicating that element no. 8 refers to both a “take-out port” in paragraph 0026 and to a “connection port” in paragraph 0028.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, paragraph 0028 has been amended so that element no. 8 refers to the “take-out port.”

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 15 as being indefinite for not providing antecedent basis and for being ambiguous and for reciting a narrow range within a broad range.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicant submits that the indefiniteness rejections have been obviated by the above claim amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claims 13 – 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for improperly reciting a process within an apparatus claim.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicant submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 have been obviated by the above claim amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

1. The You '076 Patent In View of the Pauliukonis '378 Patent

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as being unpatentable over the You '076 patent in view of the Pauliukonis '378 patent.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection since all of the features of the presently claimed invention are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

Independent claim 1 recites "[a]n adapter comprising an attachment means and a connection means to establish both a physical fit and flow connection between: a container with one drain opening, otherwise being closed - and being substantially rigid, and a device at least occasionally liquid demanding; where the attachment means has one attachment port for providing a sealing connection to the drain opening of at least one such detachable and possibly replaceable container, and a valve being placed in fluid connection with the a flow-passage between the attachment port and the connection means for of the liquid demanding device for automatic pressure equalizing simultaneously with the devices' draining of liquid from a such attached container, characterized in, the attachment means (2) at the attachment port (3) being configured to keep a presently utilized container (4) by means of a sealing engagement in the drain opening (5) outlet area (6), and in the connection means (7) being shaped as a connection port (8) externally having a substantially prismatic or cylindrical (10) form, which fits in a correspondingly shaped deep hole in the device (9), wherein after a certain – substantially translatic – mutual telescoping of the prism or cylinder (10) and the deep hole, a sealing to the prism or cylinder

between the interior of the deep hole and the surroundings is established by sealing means, a spring biased take-out valve (11) being provided in the a flow direction in the connection port (8) of the adapter (1), being opened by means in the device (9) after the sealing to the prism or cylinder (10) has been established; and that, conversely, the take-out valve (11) being closed during and or at least briefly after invalidation of the sealing to the prism or cylinder (10) between the surroundings and the deep hole at mutual separation of the adapter (1) and the device (9).”

The You ‘076 patent discloses an inflating assembly that has a tubular threaded portion at front and side ends. The tubular portion is provided with an inflating device. The inflating assembly has a blowing inflating device on a side end. The Pauliukonis ‘378 patent discloses a pressure reducing valve for use with compressed gas containers requiring fixed volumetric flow at regulated exhaust pressure.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the cited prior art combination does not disclose, teach or suggest “a valve being placed in fluid connection with the a flow-passage between the attachment port and the connection means for of the liquid demanding device for automatic pressure equalizing simultaneously with the devices’ draining of liquid from a such attached container” as recited in independent claim 1. The cited references all relate to devices for pressure equalizing and are then a safety valve/blowing valve for preventing explosion by letting air out and not the intake of liquid as the presently claimed invention. Thus, the cited prior art combination does not render the presently claimed invention obvious. Further, since dependent claims necessarily contain all of the features of the independent claims from which they depend, the dependent claims are asserted to be patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw

the outstanding rejections.

2. The You '076 Patent In View of the Pauliukonis '378 Patent in Further View of The Robinette '015 Patent.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 – 12 as being unpatentable over the You '076 patent in view of the Pauliukonis '378 patent in further view of the Robinette '015 patent.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection since the cited prior art combination does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the features of the presently claimed invention.

The arguments above with respect to the You '076 patent in view of the Pauliukonis '378 patent are incorporated by reference. The Robinette '015 patent does not cure the deficiencies of the primary cited prior art combination. The Robinette '015 patent discloses a device for filling pneumatic tires that includes a container for gas under pressure. The device includes a head that leads from the interior of the container and a tire valve in that is movable to opened and closed positions.

However, in contrast to the presently claimed invention, the cited prior art combination does not disclose, teach or suggest "a valve being placed in fluid connection with the a flow-passage between the attachment port and the connection means for of the liquid demanding device for automatic pressure equalizing simultaneously with the devices' draining of liquid from a such attached container" as recited in independent claim 1. The cited references all relate to devices for pressure equalizing and are then a safety valve/blowing valve for preventing explosion by letting air out and not the intake of liquid as the presently claimed invention. Thus, the cited prior art combination does not render the presently claimed invention obvious. Further, since dependent claims necessarily

contain all of the features of the independent claims from which they depend, the dependent claims, are asserted to be patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

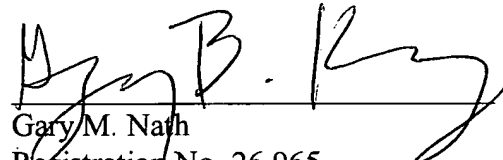
In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

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